

## Message Text

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16

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 AID-20 OMB-01

INRE-00 DRC-01 NSCE-00 /170 W  
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O R 210531Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2160

AMEMBASSY KABUL IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 10068

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, AF, PK

SUBJ: SOVIET POSITION ON PAK-AFGHAN DISPUTE

REF: ISLAMABAD 10053 (NOTAL)

1. DURING FAREWELL CALL ON SOV AMBASSADOR RODIONOV  
NOVEMBER 21, I ASKED HOW HE VIEWED CURRENT DIFFERENCES  
BETWEEN AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN, IN CONTEXT OF A COMMON  
US-SOVIET INTEREST IN PEACE AND STABILITY OF SOUTH ASIAN  
REGION. RODIONOV REPLIED WITHOUT HESITATION THAT,  
AS BETWEEN AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN, POSITION OF  
LATTER ON CURRENT DIFFERENCES WAS "MORE REALISTIC."  
HE AFFIRMED THAT USSR ACCEPTS THE GENERALLY RECOGNIZED  
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INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY BETWEEN AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN.

REMARKING ON LENGTH AND PEACEFULNESS OF SOVIET-AFGHAN BORDER, RODIONOV SAID USSR WAS INTERESTED IN MAINTAINING QUIET ALONG OTHER BORDERS IN THIS REGION. HE NOTED THAT USSR HAD VERY GOOD RELATIONS WITH GOVERNMENT OF KING ZAHIR SHAH AS WELL AS WITH NEW DAOUD REGIME. VOLUNTEERING VIEW THAT USSR DOES HAVE SOME INFLUENCE IN KABUL, HE SAID THAT SOV LEADERS HAVE COUNSELED CURRENT GOA LEADERSHIP TO OBSERVE RESTRAINT OVER PUSHTUNISTAN ISSUE AND RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN. RODIONOV ADDED THAT (APART FROM MERITS OF SUBSTANTIVE ISSUE WHICH PAKISTAN HAD ON ITS SIDE) IT WAS ALSO DESIRABLE THAT GOP LEADERS EXERCISE RESTRAINT IN THEIR PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON RELATIONS WITH AFGHANISTAN. I SAID I AGREED WITH LATTER POINT AND HAD BEEN MAKING IT IN MY OWN TALKS WITH GOP REPS.

2. COMMENT: ASSUMING RODIONOV WAS REFLECTING AN ESTABLISHED USSR VIEW, IT SEEMS TO ME THAT SOVS ARE FOLLOWING A GENERALLY REALISTIC AND CORRECT COURSE ON CURRENT PAK-AFGHAN CONFRONTATION. IN THIS REGARD I TOLD RODIONOV THAT I WAS PERSONALLY GLAD TO KNOW THAT USSR WAS ADVISING GOA AGAINST BLOWING UP ITS GRIEVANCES AGAINST PAKISTAN OVER PUSHTUNISTAN ISSUE. I THINK THERE MIGHT BE LESSON IN THIS FOR US.

3. THIS MESSAGE BEING SENT IMMEDIATE TO KABUL IN VIEW OF AMBASSADOR ELIOT'S EXPECTED DISCUSSION TODAY WITH PRES DAOUD.  
SOBER

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**TAGS:** PINT, PFOR, AF, PK  
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